



DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

News Release

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JANUARY MARKS LOWEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN LAST 15 YEARS AS THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE SEES STEEP DECLINE TO 2.4 PERCENT

HONOLULU- The Hawaii State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced today that the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for January was 2.4 percent, a decline of 0.3 percentage point over December. Hawaii is the only state in the nation with an unemployment rate below 3 percent.

The last time Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was as low as 2.4 percent was January 1991. Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate went from 4.9 percent in December to 4.7 percent in January. One year ago, Hawaii's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 3.0 percent, while the U.S. seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.2 percent.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	JAN 2006	DEC 2005	JAN 2005
STATE	2.4	2.7	3.0
U. S.	4.7	4.9	5.2

In January, the seasonally adjusted labor force totaled 645,700 and was comprised of 630,450 employed and 15,300 unemployed. Compared with January 2005, the number of employed in Hawaii has grown by 24,400, or 4.0 percent, while the number of unemployed has contracted by 3,150, or 17.1 percent.

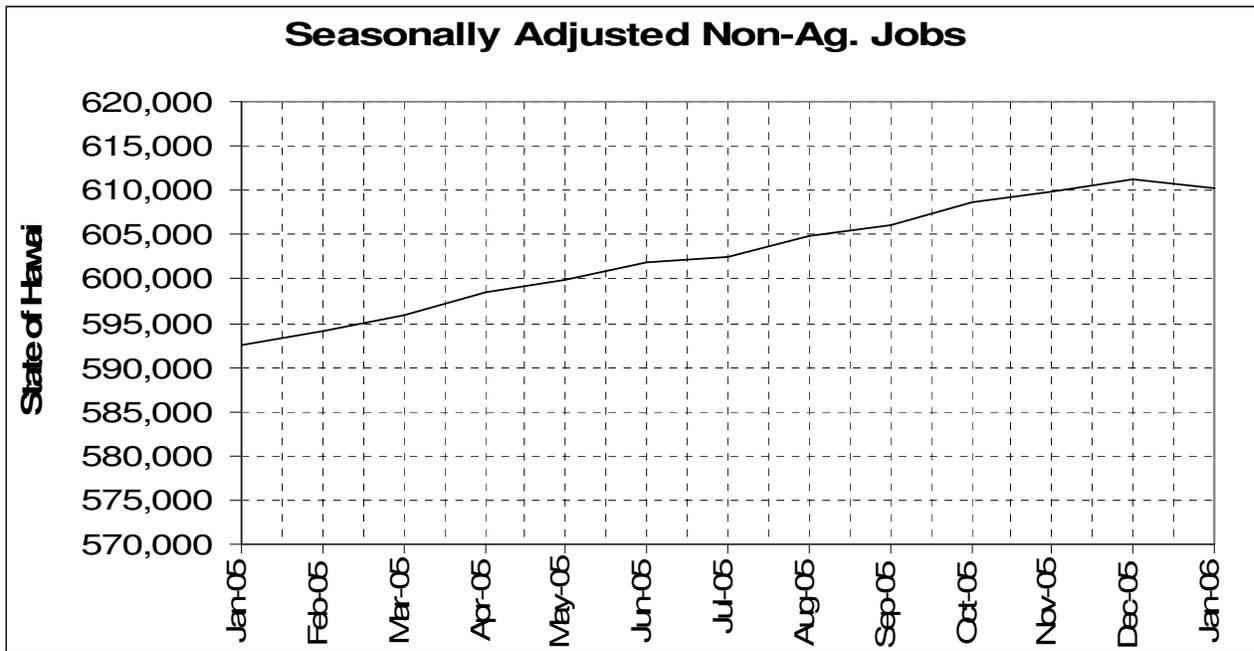
State of Hawaii Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Data**			
	<u>Jan</u> <u>2006</u>	<u>Dec</u> <u>2005</u>	<u>Jan</u> <u>2005</u>
Labor Force	645,700	644,100	624,500
Employment	630,450	626,600	606,050
Unemployment	15,300	17,550	18,450

In another measure of employment, total non-agricultural jobs declined in January over December by 900, or 0.1 percent. The over-the-month decrease was primarily due to the decline of 2,100 jobs in Government, mostly as a result of shifting in the public school calendar resulting in temporary drops in both instructional and non-instructional support positions. The balance of the seasonally adjusted industries showed little over-the-month change. Construction and Education & Health Services added 200 jobs each. Other Services went up by 100 jobs. Trade, Transportation, & Utilities remained stable. Employment in Manufacturing and Leisure & Hospitality dipped slightly by 100 jobs each.

Over-the-year, the overall jobcount expanded by 17,800, or 3.0 percent. Significant job gains over January 2005 were realized in Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (+5,200, +4.5 percent), Construction (+4,300, +13.6 percent), Leisure & Hospitality (+2,400, +2.3 percent), and in Education & Health Services (+1,400, +2.0 percent).

Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Jan-06	Dec-05*	Jan-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	35,900	35,700	31,600
MANUFACTURING	15,300	15,400	15,200
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,400	120,400	115,200
EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH SERVICES	71,000	70,800	69,600
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	107,400	107,500	105,000
OTHER SERVICES	25,500	25,400	25,100
GOVERNMENT	117,600	119,700	118,400
TOTAL	610,300	611,200	592,500



“Hawaii’s economy is remarkable as it continues to expand and add jobs”, said Nelson B. Befitel, Director of Labor and Industrial Relations. “It has been heartening to see Hawaii post the lowest unemployment rate in the nation for the last 21 straight months.”

Unemployment Trust Fund

To keep the public informed on the status of the state's Unemployment Compensation Fund (Fund), from which unemployment benefits are paid to qualified claimants, the following is the status of the Fund and its projected balance at the end of the year.

Fund Balance as of end of January 2006:	\$457,057,503
Taxes received year-to-date through end of January:	\$7,513,486
Interest received year-to-date through end of January:	\$654
Benefits paid year-to-date through end of January:	\$7,699,155
Current Tax Schedule (for calendar year 2006):	Schedule "C"

Fund projections (as of end of January) for calendar year 2006 and projected calendar year 2007 tax schedule:

Fund Balance, end of 2006:	\$528,300,000 (projected)
Taxes for calendar year 2006:	\$132,400,000 (projected)
Interest for calendar year 2006:	\$23,700,000 (projected)
Benefits for calendar year 2006:	\$85,000,000 (projected)
Projected Tax Schedule for calendar year 2007:	Schedule "B" (projected)

For comparison purposes, in calendar year 2005 the Fund collected \$130.2 million in taxes and paid out \$82.3 million in benefits.

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UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	JAN 2006	* DEC 2005	* JAN 2005
STATE	2.2	2.4	2.8
HONOLULU	2.2	2.3	2.8
HAWAII COUNTY	2.5	2.7	3.1
KAUAI	2.1	2.4	2.8
MAUI COUNTY	2.2	2.3	2.5
U. S.	5.1	4.6	5.7

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES- SEASONALLY ADJUSTED

	JAN 2006	DEC 2005	JAN 2005
STATE	2.4	2.7	3.0
U. S.	4.7	4.9	5.2

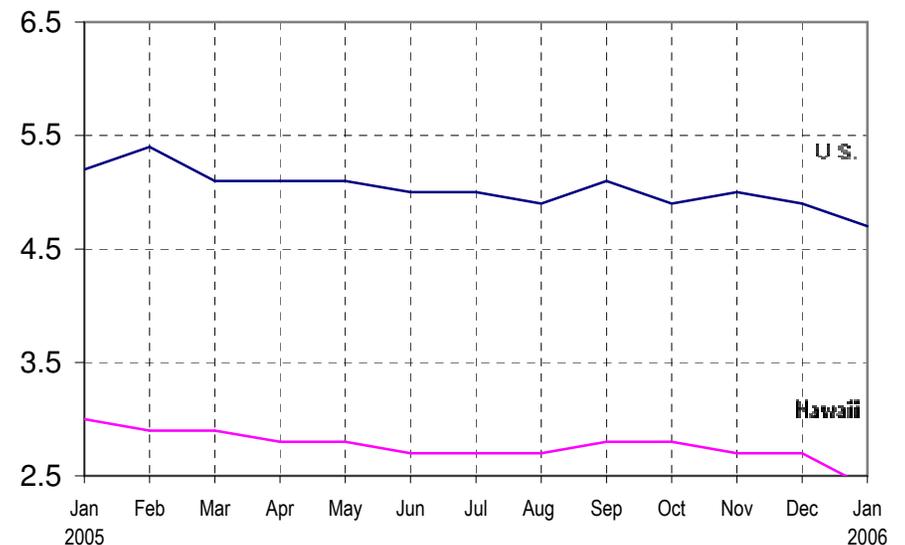
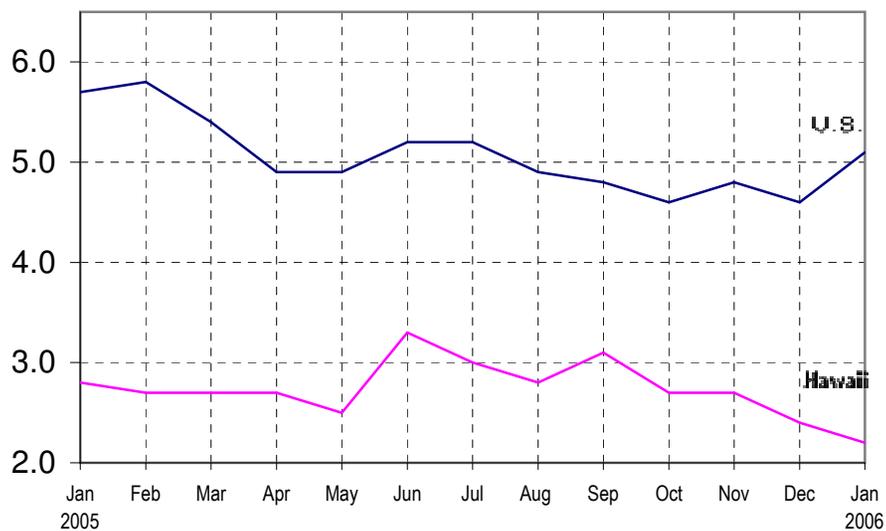
	<u>Jan 2006</u>	<u>Dec 2005</u>	<u>Jan 2005</u>
Labor Force	645,700	644,100	624,500
Employment	630,450	626,600	606,050
Unemployment	15,300	17,550	18,450

* county data preliminary- subject to Bureau of Labor Statistics approval

** totals may not add up due to rounding

	Jan 2005	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2006
U. S.	5.7	5.8	5.4	4.9	4.9	5.2	5.2	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.6	5.1
Hawaii	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.5	3.3	3.0	2.8	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.4	2.2

	Jan 2005	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan 2006
U. S.	5.2	5.4	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.0	5.0	4.9	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.9	4.7
Hawaii	3.0	2.9	2.9	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.7	2.7	2.4



LABOR FORCE AND JOBCOUNT ESTIMATES
January 2006 Report, Statewide

	DEPARTMENT OF LABOR -- LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES							
	STATEWIDE							
	(NOT SEASONALLY ADJUSTED)							
	Jan-06	Dec-05	Jan-05	CHANGE FROM ONE MONTH AGO		CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR AGO		
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	645.9	644.8	624.0	1.1	0.2%	21.9	3.5%	
TOTAL EMPLOYED	631.5	629.5	606.6	2.0	0.3%	24.9	4.1%	
UNEMPLOYED	14.5	15.2	17.4	-0.7	-4.6%	-2.9	-16.7%	
percent of Labor Force	2.2%	2.4%	2.8%					
Total Nonfarm	605.2	620.5	585.1	-15.3	-2.5%	20.1	3.4%	
Total Private	489.6	497.8	468.9	-8.2	-1.6%	20.7	4.4%	
Goods Producing	50.3	51.0	45.9	-0.6	-1.3%	4.4	9.6%	
Service-Providing	554.9	569.5	539.2	-14.7	-2.6%	15.7	2.9%	
Private Service-Providing	439.3	446.8	423.0	-7.5	-1.7%	16.3	3.9%	
Nat. Res & Construct	35.1	35.6	30.8	-0.5	-1.4%	4.3	14.1%	
Construction of Buildings	11.2	11.3	9.7	-0.1	-2.6%	1.5	8.8%	
Special Trade Contractors	18.8	19.1	16.6	-0.3	-0.5%	2.3	16.0%	
Manufacturing	15.2	15.3	15.1	-0.2	-1.0%	0.1	0.4%	
Durable Goods	4.5	4.6	4.3	-0.1	-1.8%	0.1	3.4%	
Non-Durable Goods	10.7	10.8	10.8	-0.1	-0.7%	-0.1	-0.8%	
Trade, Transportation,	121.0	124.3	115.0	-3.4	-2.7%	6.0	5.2%	
Wholesale Trade	17.9	18.1	17.1	-0.2	-1.1%	0.8	4.5%	
Retail Trade	70.8	74.0	68.5	-3.2	-4.4%	2.3	3.3%	
Food and Beverage Sto	12.9	13.2	12.7	-0.2	-1.7%	0.3	2.2%	
Grocery Stores	10.8	10.9	10.6	-0.2	-1.4%	0.2	1.9%	
Clothing and Clothing	11.8	12.5	11.1	-0.7	-5.8%	0.7	6.1%	
General Merchandise S	12.8	13.6	12.4	-0.9	-6.3%	0.4	3.6%	
Department Stores	9.6	10.5	9.1	-0.9	-8.2%	0.5	5.5%	
Trans,Warehouse, Util	32.2	32.2	29.3	0.1	0.2%	2.9	10.0%	
Utilities	2.9	2.9	2.8	0.0	0.1%	0.1	2.3%	
Transport & Warehouse	29.3	29.3	26.5	0.1	0.2%	2.9	10.8%	
Air Transportation	10.1	10.2	10.3	-0.1	-1.1%	-0.2	-2.0%	
Information	11.0	11.1	10.4	-0.1	-0.7%	0.6	5.5%	
Telecommunications	4.0	4.0	3.8	0.0	-0.2%	0.2	6.1%	
Financial Activities	29.6	29.8	28.7	-0.3	-0.9%	0.9	3.2%	
Finance and Insurance	16.6	16.7	16.4	-0.1	-0.5%	0.2	1.4%	
Real Estate and Renta	12.9	13.1	12.3	-0.2	-1.3%	0.7	5.5%	
Professional and Busin	75.2	76.1	71.9	-0.9	-1.2%	3.3	4.7%	
Professional, Scienti	23.5	23.8	22.9	-0.4	-1.6%	0.6	2.5%	
Management of Compani	7.5	7.7	7.3	-0.1	-1.6%	0.3	3.8%	
Administrative and Su	44.2	44.6	41.7	-0.4	-0.9%	2.5	6.0%	
Employment Services	16.5	16.8	14.8	-0.3	-2.1%	1.7	11.4%	
Educational and Health	70.4	71.6	68.7	-1.2	-1.7%	1.6	2.4%	
Educational Services	13.6	14.0	13.2	-0.4	-3.0%	0.4	2.7%	
Elementary and Second	7.1	7.2	6.8	-0.2	-2.4%	0.3	4.4%	
Health Care and Socia	56.8	57.6	55.5	-0.8	-1.4%	1.3	2.3%	
Ambulatory Health Car	22.8	23.2	22.2	-0.4	-1.6%	0.6	2.6%	
Hospitals	14.1	14.3	13.9	-0.2	-1.7%	0.1	0.8%	
Nursing and Residenti	6.8	6.8	6.5	0.0	0.7%	0.3	5.3%	
Social Assistance	13.1	13.3	12.9	-0.2	-1.7%	0.3	2.0%	
Leisure and Hospitalit	107.0	108.3	103.8	-1.3	-1.2%	3.2	3.0%	
Arts, Entertainment,	11.6	11.9	11.0	-0.3	-2.4%	0.6	5.0%	
Accommodation and Foo	95.4	96.4	92.8	-1.0	-1.0%	2.6	2.8%	
Accommodation	39.3	39.4	38.3	-0.1	-0.2%	1.0	2.6%	
Food Services and Dri	56.1	57.0	54.5	-0.9	-1.6%	1.6	2.9%	
Full-Service Restaura	29.0	29.3	28.0	-0.2	-0.8%	1.0	3.5%	
Other Services	25.2	25.5	24.5	-0.4	-1.5%	0.7	2.7%	
Government	115.6	122.7	116.2	-7.1	-5.8%	-0.6	-0.5%	
Federal Government	31.4	31.8	31.2	-0.4	-1.1%	0.2	0.7%	
Ship Building & Repai	4.1	4.1	4.1	0.0	-0.1%	0.0	-0.4%	
Department of Defense	16.3	16.4	16.3	-0.1	-0.4%	0.0	-0.3%	
State Government	67.0	73.6	68.1	-6.7	-9.1%	-1.1	-1.6%	
State Govt. Education	43.3	49.8	44.4	-6.5	-13.1%	-1.1	-2.5%	
Local Government	17.2	17.3	16.9	-0.1	-0.6%	0.3	1.7%	

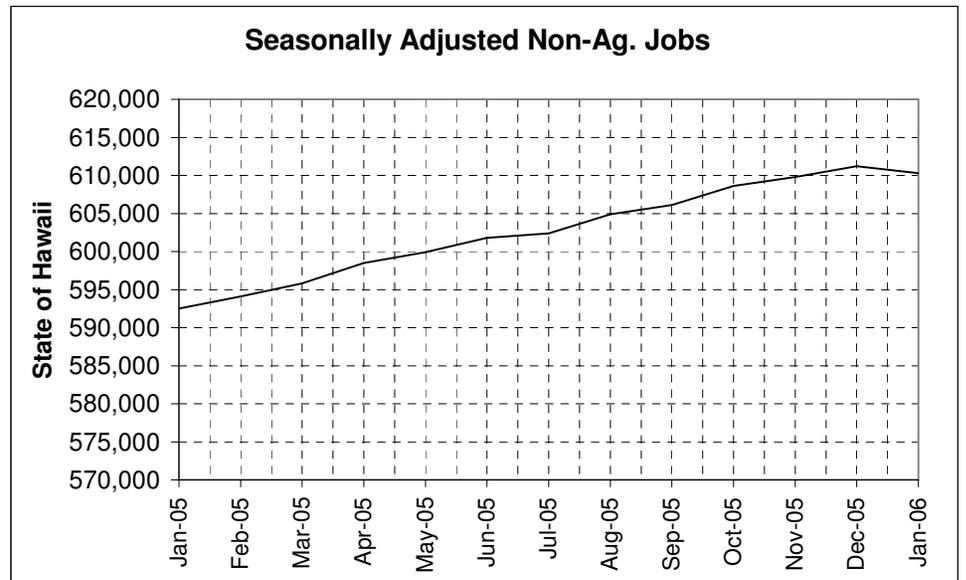
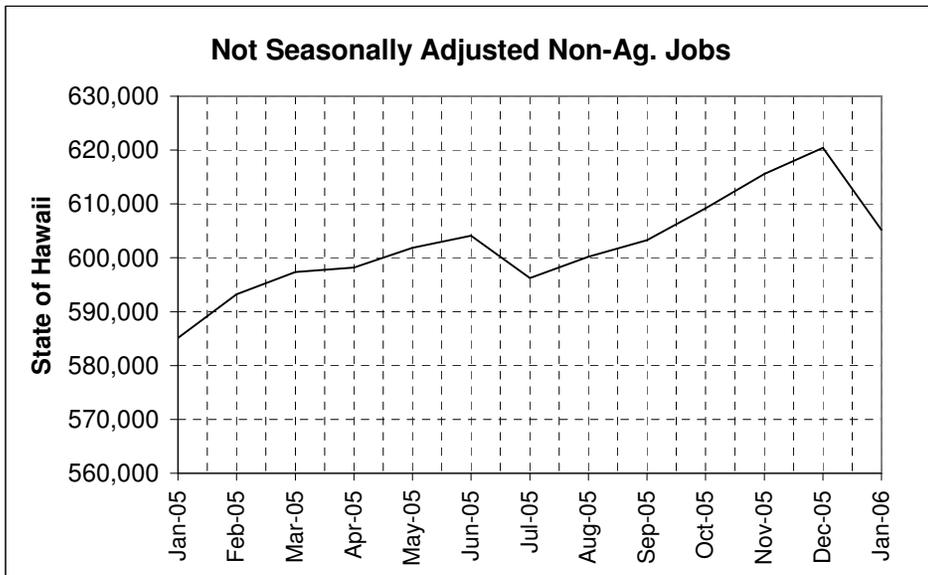
Not Seasonally Adjusted Non-Ag. Jobs

	Jan-06	Dec-05*	Jan-05*
NAT. RESOURCES, MINING & CONSTR.	35,150	35,600	30,800
MANUFACTURING	15,200	15,350	15,100
TRADE, TRANSPORTATION & UTILITIES	120,950	124,350	114,950
INFORMATION	11,000	11,100	10,450
FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES	29,600	29,850	28,700
PROFESSIONAL & BUSINESS SERVICES	75,200	76,150	71,850
EDUCATIONAL & HEALTH SERVICES	70,400	71,600	68,750
LEISURE & HOSPITALITY	107,000	108,250	103,800
OTHER SERVICES	25,150	25,550	24,500
GOVERNMENT	115,550	122,700	116,150
TOTAL	605,150	620,450	585,100

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OTHER SERVICES	25,500	25,400	25,100
GOVERNMENT	117,600	119,700	118,400
TOTAL	610,300	611,200	592,500

* BENCHMARKED DATA



Nat. Resources, Mining & Construction

